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March
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Top Stories

Oklahoma grid operator says wind provided more than 60 percent of the power Friday

By Jack Money, NewsOK • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:36:19

The Southwest Power Pool, the regional transmission organization that manages the Great Plains' electric grid, announced Friday it had set a wind-penetration record of 60.56 percent. A spokesman for the organization said Friday's record is just one in a string of nearly a dozen that have been set just in recent months. [[read more ...](#)]

Arizona regulators freeze new gas projects, demand renewables

Benjamin Storrow, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:31:42

Arizona regulators gave the state's largest utility the cold shoulder last week, essentially rejecting Arizona Public Service Co.'s plans to double its natural gas fleet over the next 15 years. Instead, they imposed a temporary freeze on most new natural gas projects and asked the power company to draw up plans for acquiring more renewable energy. [[read more ...](#)]

Policy & Politics

Trump budget would cut renewables lab by more than half

Christa Marshall, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:35:44

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory would see its funding fall by more than half under President Trump's budget request for the Department of Energy, according to new documents. A DOE budget outline posted online also shows about a 35 percent slash for the National Energy Technology Laboratory in West Virginia, which focuses heavily on carbon capture and fossil energy research. [[read more ...](#)]

Renewable energy groups express concerns about proposed Energy Department budget cuts

By Kevin Randolph, Daily Energy Insider • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:36:50

Several renewable energy groups recently sent a letter to members of House and Senate Appropriations Committees urging them to continue funding for various Department of Energy programs. "We believe that such cuts in FY 2018 or FY 2019 would seriously jeopardize America's leadership in cutting-edge research on clean energy technologies and harm our country's overall competitiveness in a rapidly growing global industry that presents a multi-trillion-dollar business opportunity," the groups said in the letter. [[read more ...](#)]

Industries set to request tariff carve-outs

Hannah Northey, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:37:29

The Trump administration has begun accepting applications today from companies hoping to sidestep steep aluminum and steel tariffs that kick in Friday. The Commerce Department laid out a 90-day framework in today's Federal Register for U.S. individuals and groups hoping to secure carve-outs from President Trump's 25 percent tariff on steel and 10 percent tariff on aluminum. Canada and Mexico were excluded pending trade negotiations. [[read more ...](#)]

Science reform eyed as path to unravel EPA's endangerment finding

Scott Waldman, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:37:47

The plan now being developed at U.S. EPA to restrict the science the agency uses could affect the crafting of regulations for years and become one of the most enduring parts of Administrator Scott Pruitt's legacy. The plan under consideration is expected to limit the science used in EPA regulation to studies where the data could be published and reproduced. And while the agency is still considering the exact scope of its restrictions, both critics and supporters of the plan agree that it will fundamentally transform the way EPA uses research. [[read more ...](#)]

How do you talk to Pruitt about climate change?

Niina Heikkinen, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:38:03

U.S. EPA boss Scott Pruitt is skilled at sticking to his talking points, particularly when it comes to climate change. For journalists covering that issue, pushing Pruitt beyond his rhetoric has become more important as the EPA chief has become one of the Trump administration's highest-profile officials casting doubt on mainstream climate science. [[read more ...](#)]

President Xi supersedes environmental agency

Jean Chemnick, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-03-20 06:38:15

China has consolidated and strengthened its environmental regulatory bureaucracy in a "superagency," a move environmentalists say will support its domestic greenhouse gas rules

and help deliver China's current commitment to the Paris climate accord. The change came last week as part of an overhaul of China's government aimed at elevating the priorities of President Xi Jinping, who recently became president for life. The government hopes to complete it this year. [[read more ...](#)]

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